

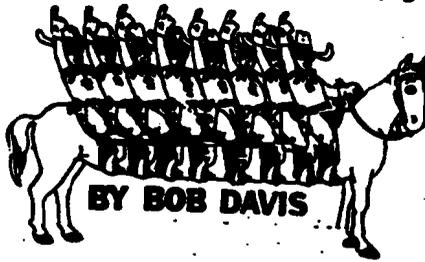
The Illustrated Press

VOLUME 17 ISSUE 9

DECEMBER, 1991

**SAY!**

**WHO WAS THAT MASKED MAN?**



IN MEMORY OF BOB DAVIS



Affiliated With  
The Old Time Radio  
Network

**THE OLD TIME RADIO CLUB  
MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION**

New member processing—\$5.00 plus club membership of \$17.50 per year from Jan 1 to Dec 31. Members receive a tape listing, library listing, monthly news letter, the Illustrated Press, the yearly Memories Publications and various special items. Additional family members living in the same household as a regular member may join the club for \$5.00 per year. These members have all the privileges of the regular members but do not receive the publications. A junior membership is available to persons 12 yrs of age & younger who do not live with a regular member. This membership is \$13.00 per year and includes all the benefits of regular membership. Regular membership are as follows: If you join in Jan-Mar \$17.50— Apr- Jun \$14.00— July-Sept \$10— Oct- Dec \$7.00. All renewals should be sent in as soon as possible to avoid missing issues. Please be sure to notify us if you change your address.

OVERSEAS MEMBERSHIPS are now available. Annual memberships are \$29.75. Publications will be airmailed.

The Old Time Radio Club meets the first of every month on Monday evening from August to June at 393 George Urban Blvd. Cheektowaga, N.Y. 14225. Anyone interested in the Golden Age of Radio is welcome. Meeting start at 7:30 P.M.  
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**CLUB ADDRESS:**

Old Time Radio Club  
P.O. Box 426  
Lancaster, N.Y. 14086

**DEADLINE FOR THE I.P.—10th of each month prior to publication**

**CLUB OFFICERS:**

President— Jerry Collins  
56 Christen Ct.  
Lancaster, N.Y. 14086  
(716) 683-6199

Vice-President & Canadian Branch  
Richard Simpson  
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Reference Library  
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Cheektowaga, N.Y. 14225

Membership Renewals, Change of Address,  
Mailing of Publications  
Pete Bellanca  
1620 Ferry Rd.  
Grand Island, N.Y. 14072  
(716) 773-2485

Membership Inquiries, & OTR Network  
Related Items  
Richard Olday  
100 Harvey Dr.  
Lancaster, NY. 14086  
(716) 684-1604

**TAPE LIBRARIES:**

Cassettes: Jim Aprile  
85 Hyledge Dr.  
Amherst, N.Y. 14226  
(716) 837-7747

Reel to Reel 1-750  
Marty Braun  
10905 Howe Rd.  
Clarence, N.Y. 14031  
(716) 759-8793

Reel to Reel 751 & UP  
Tom Harris  
9565 Weherle Dr.  
Clarence, N.Y. 14031  
(716) 759- 8401

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**TAPE LIBRARY RATES:** All reels and video cassettes— \$1.85 per month; cassettes and records— \$.85 per month. Rates include postage and handling.

**CANADIAN BRANCH:** Rental rates are the same as above, but in Canadian funds.

# Editor's DESK



THIS issue of the ILLUSTRATED PRESS is dedicated to the memory of Bob Davis, who passed away in October. Bob was an original member and one of the founders of the Buffalo Old Time Radio Club. We will sadly miss him and his witty columns "Who Was That Masked Man" and "The Answer Man"

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NOTICE: Membership dues are now due for next year. So please renew as soon as possible so you won't miss any of next years I.P.

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We would like to take the time now and say "Thank You" to all the dealers who graciously donated reels and cassettes to our club's libraries at the October Friends Of Old Time Radio Convention in Newark. Don Aston, Ampro, Great American Radio, Vintage Broadcast, Ron Barnett, Carl Amari and Radio Spirits, Ken Mills, and The Shadow's Sanctum.

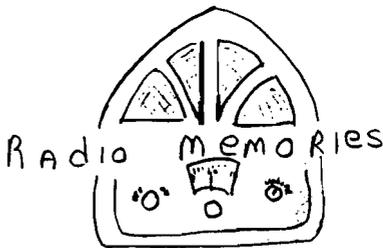
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For anyone who is interested in the tape catalog on computer disk. The disk is 5 1/4" diskette and was run on a lotus 123 format. So anyone interested will need a lotus 123 computer or IBM computer with compatible software in order to use the floppy disk. We also have a few 3 1/2" diskette available.

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From the staff of the

ILLUSTRATED PRESS and all the officers we wish a Happy and Safe Holiday Season to all our members and to all OTR fans every where.



BY

FRANCIS EDWARD BORK

## JUST A FEW WORDS ABOUT A FRIEND

BOB DAVIS

A few weeks back as I sat home alone one night watching tv my phone rang.

Hello! Frank, a woman's voice asked. Yes, I'm Frank. You sound different Frank. I do? Well its still me, I said. Do you know... she mentioned a few names. Nope doesn't ring a bell I said. You're Frank Bontcore aren't you she asked? NO I'm Frank Bork I answered, who are you. I'm Bob Davis's daughter she said. Oh sure I know Bob I said he's a fellow member of the Radio Club. Gee I hope its not bad news I said. Its the worst she replied, Dad had a heart attack he---he died this afternoon. Oh, God, I said, I'm so sorry, I wish I knew something to say that wouldn't sound stupid. I know she said thats ok. Look hang on will you I'll get Frank's phone number for you. I got her the number. Thanks she said I'm sorry to bother you like this. God, I though she's sorry to bother me when she just lost her father. Hey, no, I said don't be sorry for me, I feel sad and sorry for you. Look try and take it easy, good night.

Good night she replied.

God, Bob DAVIS dead, an image of Bob popped into my mind. Bob kidding around with the guys in the cellars of Radio Club High (Ed Wanat's basement.)

I sat back not even seeing the tv anymore. When was the first time I met Bob Davis? Lets see. Yes, I remember it was at the Super Flea Market on Walden Ave/ How many years ago ten, no more like fifteen years ago. I remember I went to the Flea Market to find some books to read when I saw a

young boy at a stall selling cassettes. Hey I'll take a look at them. I looked through the selection he had and picked out 3 cassettes. I still remember the very first radio cassette I bought from Bob. "MEET ME IN ST LOUIS". I paid the boy and put the cassettes in my pocket and continued my search for books. No luck in the book quest, really nothing I was interested in.

So I wondered back to the stall with the radio shows. That's the man who bought the cassettes the boy told the man standing next to him. Hi, I said, got any Sherlock Holmes stories? Sure the man said I've got a couple here. I found two shows of Sherlock Holmes I wanted. I handed him a five dollar bill. Ok he said. There (? I don't remember this price of each cassette but I will say this, it couldn't have been much because I doubt if Bob ever made any money from his hobby.) Buying five at one time they were cheaper. Since you already bought three and these two make a total of five you get them cheaper. Great, I said will you be here next week? I'll come back and buy some more. You like the old radio shows, he asked? Yeah I sure do I replied. Then maybe you should join the Radio club, you know buying like this can be expensive, Yeah I know I said. I called one guy about a Radio Club but I lost the address he gave me. Oh, what is his name? Well its Chuck, but I don't remember his last name and that's the problem I replied. Does Chuck Seely sound like it he asked? That's it I said. Sure I know Chuck real well, he's in the same club as me. By the way my name's Bob Davis whats yours?

Look why don't you come down to one of our meetings Bob said, We meet the first monday of each month, wait a minute I'll give you the address. Ok I said, I'm Frank Bork. We shook hands then Bob wrote down the address for me. Here you are he said handing me the paper with the address on it/ Our next meeting will be the second monday in September on account of Labor Day, but after that always the first monday. Look Frank I'll give you, your money back, for those cassettes, when your in the Club you can borrow them from the club library for a couple of cents, Bob told me. NO, I'll keep them Bob I said your meeting is still a month and a half away. Well ok then Frank, Bob said I hope to see you at the meeting in September. I'll be there Bob, I

I replied. Thanks a lot. Sure Bob said. we shook hands again.

I went home to listen to my treasures.

Well that was Bob, the hobby first, the club first, and Bob Davis last.

For a long, long time you'll be sadly missed by all of your friends at the Radio Club.

Viya Con Dios Bob.

Francis Edward Bork

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JUST THE FACTS MA'AM  
by  
FRANK C. BONCORE

This is my report on the 16th Annual Friends of Old Time RADIO Convention in Newark, New Jersey.

I have to admit that I WAS REALLY NOT GOING TO GO this year, however Bill McDougal talked me into it. This year we stayed at the Radisson Hotel (this used to be a junkyard that is next to the Holiday Inn; we'll talk more about that later). After arriving on time from our flight, I called the Radisson to have the shuttle pick us up. I thought that the Holiday Inn shuttle was like a roller coaster ride, however the Radisson Shuttle drivers made the Holiday Inn drivers look like little old retired teachers.

The main reason for my attending the Convention is "THE DEALERS ROOM" and to see the many people who have become my friends over the years. The dealers room this year became several dealers rooms for what reason I don't know however the general feeling among the people that I talked too was to put all the dealers back into one room. I personally don't believe that it was fair for those dealers who were shoved into tiny roomsoff to the left way in the back of the Hotel. I said it last year and I'll say it again if this was done for lack of space the FOTR Convention has outgrown the Holiday Inn North. I also noticed that people were cramped at the Cocktail parties. I am sure that the Holiday Inn staff has bent over backwards to accommodate the FOTR: however they can't do it when they DON'T have the room. I would like to suggest the the "Committee go next door and look at the space

that the Radisson Inn has in their conventionrooms and look at the number of convention rooms the Radisson Inn has. I have to admit that their dining rooms leave a lot to be desired however it is more suited to the FOTR Convention. Please don't think that I'm taking a cheap shot at the committee who has worked long and hard in putting this convention together. It's because of their work that we have outgrown the Holiday Inn North.

On the positive side, I have been a "Gunsmoke" fan for several years. It was unfortunate for us that Bill Conrad was unavailable to resurrect his role as Matt Dillon, however we were very fortunate in having Jackson Beckavailable to take Mr. Conrad's place. Jackson Beck has been a friend of the convention for years and it is my opinion that he could play just about any role he chose to and would fit the character well. It was also great to have Parley Baer as Chester. I was waiting all through the recreation of Ezra (Henry Aldrich) Stone who played Doc to respond with "coming mother."

PEOPLE AT THE CONVENTION

It was great to see Ed Carr, however he sold his new shows on Thursday and we arrived on Friday. Cowboy Don Aston had new Jack Benny shows from the 30's and Chandu the Magician. Personal note to the "Cowboy": I love you however the Early Jack Benny and Chandu the Magician turn me off but you have some really GREAT videos. Ken Mills of Nostalgia Recordings has a new catalog. Gene Bradford had some Tom Mix bookmarks and a Tom Mix poster. Guess who was at the convention? None other than Good OldJim (I don't have burnout) Snyder. Jim was at the bar when John Furman arrived, he offered to buy John a drink. John ordered two beers. One can't expect John to have a beer without Hank Hinkle (especially when Jim is buying). Look out SPERDVAC it is rumored that Jim Snyder just might attend your convention in the near future. It's always great seeing Doug Due. Doug is always looking for Tom Mix shows, Jack Armstrong shows, I Love A Mystery and Sill Stern Sportsreel. If any one has new ones drop me a line and I'll pass it on.

PEOPLE NOT AT THE CONVENTION

I have met several great people at the convention those who did not attend but I wished they did were

Dick Osgood, Bob and Debbie Burnham and Joel and Carolyn SEnter.

Those are Just The Facts Ma'am

FCB

I first heard Bob Davis on the radio several years ago. Together with Chuck Seely there were the Trivia Twins on a local call in show. Chuck and Bob would go all over Buffalo looking for different things to stump their audience with. Only would Chuck or Bob know how many steps were at Buffalo City Hall. I personally met both of them several years ago when I joined the OTRC. Bob and I became good friends. When I found a show that I did not of I would call him and he would tell me if it was worth collecting and if I would enjoy it. He was usually right. For several years Bob wrote "SAY WHO WAS THAT MASKED MAN?" His logo was the Clone Ranger. Later he wrote the Bob Davis Column. Bob also wrote a special edition of the I.P. "THE ABC'S OF OTR" the only IP ever to get reprinted.

Recently, I received a phone call from his daughter telling me that Bob had suffered a heart attack and passed away that morning. Bob, I'm going to miss you.

FCB

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**Wireless Wanderings**



**JIM SNYDER**

This month marks a milestone, of sorts. This completes fifteen years of my writing this column in the "ILLUSTRATED PRESS" That is 9n regular "every other month" colums, plus a number of extra ones so I suppose the total is some thing over a hundred.

This also marks my last Column in the IP. I was at the point of giving up on this two or three years ago because I smply was not interested in the direction that the IP was going. Then Dan Marafino took over as editor, for a while. and livened it up and

made it more interesting. Controversial yes, but definitely interesting. However, after his final issue last March we returned to the pulps and remarkably little on radio. Let's look at those next six months.

I submitted my regular column for April, but it was bumped out so that the first installment of another pulp (the Shadow) could be included. The following month that missing column did appear, but there were no other entries in that issue except for eight more pages of the Shadow. In June my column appeared as scheduled, but the only other thing besides the Shadow was a letter from Jack Palmer complaining about the pulps, and a response by the editor. I found two points of interests in her response. She stated that if people didn't like the pulps they should send in "long monthly columns" She said this after bumping my column out two months earlier in favor of the pulp. But, the most telling thing to me was her statement, "they [the pulps] are as much old time material as the radio shows themselves." In other words, she is implying that the IP is no longer an old time radio magazine, but has become a "nostalgia" magazine. Apparently any "old time" stuff belongs. When I joined fifteen and a half years ago, I joined an old time RADIO club, not a nostalgia club, and certainly not a pulp club. These pulps have absolutely nothing at all to do with radio, and if I want nostalgia and pulp type stories I can subscribe to the SATURDAY EVENING POST for \$4.50 less than an OTRC membership.

The July issue was skipped completely and in the August one, after another, seven pages of the Shadow, all we have is my column and a submission by Chuck Juzek in defense of the pulps, as a response to Jack Palmer's June letter. Juzek stated that; "such attitudes (as Palmer's) and the obvious lack of understanding and appreciation for the relationship of pulp fiction with OTR programs just turns my stomach." I guess his stomach will have to turn some more because I totally agree with Jack. The only relationship would be a column explaining the connection between the two. The pulp story standing itself has no relationship radio. I note, by the way, that Juzek is associate editor of a "hero pulp fanzine." Why, then, doesn't he run the pulps in his magazine and leave them out of a radio publication?

The September IP, which was the last one I could review before submitting this column, contained seven more pages of the Shadow, and a two page column on old radio by Bob Kifora. While Bob's column was very interesting, it was a very small percentage of the month's material.

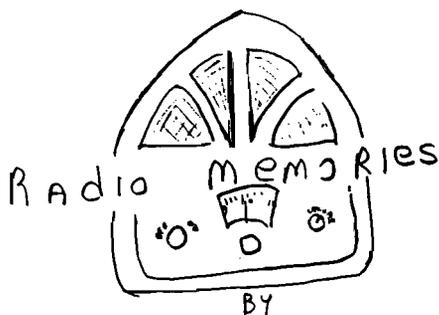
What we seem to be getting from the present ILLUSTRATED PRESS is a heavy dose of the Shadow accompanied by perhaps one other brief submission that deals with radio. Why should anyone looking for old time radio information pay for this?

Beyond all of this we come to the legal issue. These pulps are copyrighted and are being reprinted in the IP without permission. This is inexcusable, unethical, and downright dishonest. It is also being done in knowing violation of the law.

Over my fifteen plus years I have gotten a great deal out of the club and found that doing the regular column, although sometimes a "drag", was a very worthwhile experience. But I am interested in old time radio, as the club is named. I am not interested in pulps or nostalgia. An editor must turn a publication in the direction he feels it should go, but I also have to decide if that direction is one that interests me. The current IP does not, and so I feel that I must bow out. I will not discontinue my writing. I will do some columns in a couple of old time radio publications, if they want my stuff.

Before ending this I must express my great respect and admiration for two of the club's pioneers, to whom I owe a great deal. To Chuck Seeley, who started this publication and who was a fantastic and talented editor, I owe a debt of gratitude for really getting me started in this hobby and for encouraging me to do these columns. Also to my very great friend Bob Davis, who died two months ago. Over the years he proved, in these pages, to be the very best OTR writer there was. Finally, my thanks to the many people who have responded to what I have written over the years, whether your response was positive or critical. It helped to know that someone was paying attention to what I wrote, whether you agreed with me or not.

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BY  
FRANCIS EDWARD BARK

### RADIO MEMORIES

Well here are its Christmas once again with all the old time radio Christmas programs once again to listen to. Going through my collection I picked out about 10 shows I wanted to listen to while driving from home to our daughters home in Webster, N.Y. While I drove, my wife picked the shows to play on our car stereo system. She selected a Archie Andrews Christmas show about Archie and Jughead doing their holiday gift shopping. While Archie and Jughead are going from aisle to aisle looking for a suitable gift for Archie's mother and father the buy first popcorn, then ice cream cones, then candy bars, then some soda pop because they become thirsty from all the popcorn they ate. Jughead says how about some gloves for your mom? Naw sis is getting her gloves for Christmas Archie tells Jughead. Well here Arch a nice silk scarf then or maybe a wool one that will keep your mom warm on the cold nights Jughead said. Well, thats the way it went for Archie and Jughead. They just couldn't find the right gift for anyone. Afch, Jughead said, I'm getting kinda hungry, lets get something to eat and rest for a while. Yeah, o.k. Jughead I'm kinda hungry myself Archie replied. So the boys ate a hearty lunch after a long morning of shopping. It was now noon and the boys started their shopping trip at ten o'clock when the stores opened. They ate hamb;urgers, hot dogs and french fries. By three in the afternoon they had not bought one single gift for anyone. At one counter Archie saw a swell pipe he could get for this dad. Say now that sure is a swell pipe he told Jughead. I'lll bet my dad would sure like it, what do you think Jug, Archie said? Yeah Arch that sure is nice Jughead replied. Just then a cleerk came over to where the boys

stood admiring the pipe. May I help you the clerk asked. Yes sir Archie said we were just looking over this pipe for my dad for Christmas. Ah, yes said the clerk a very good choise an excellent gift I must say. How much is it blurted Jughead? This model is just two dollars and ninety five cents and very reasonable at that price the clerk told Jughead. Gee, Archie said thats a little more than I wanted tot spend but heck my dad's worth it. Archie then pulled his money from his pocket, oh gosh he said as he counted his money, yup, twenty five, forty, sixty, sixty seven cents. Oh boy he grooned thats all I got sixty seven cents to buy everybodys Christmas presents. Well thats the way it was on the good old radio programs. Life seemed easy with just those little problems. You know when my wife said to me. I remeber that story it was on radio when we were kids dating each other back in the early forties. You know now that you mention it I remember that story too I said I really do. Then we both began talking about how things were when we were kids together, the old neighborhood, our high school friends and a thousand other things that came to mind. I don't remeber if she put another radio story on the car tape deck or not. The rest of our journey we talked about our friends far away but not forgotten.

Now T.V. is great and we both enjoy it a lot but... well for us it will never take the plecte of the majic of radio. So put that cassette or reel on your tape deck and enjoy that easy relaxing radio program. Then for a short while you'll be young again and remember when life was truly easy. Of course there's always a sour note and I guess there always will be. My sour note is that master off nasty Prof Boncore. Although hw claims he knows nothing about it, I know that he hid my "Bah Humbing" sweet shirt at the last club meeting. He smiles and has that angelic look upon his face his eye uplifted and tells me gee Frank I don't know a thing about your sweet shirt gosh maybe you left it home, or the boogie man stole it. Then he's always picking on my car, my Kaiser Fraiser. Now there's a gem of a car, rides like a dream starts in all kinds of weather. I hate to pick on a guy but cheap is cheap. Now let me tell you what Prof Boncore did. Prof Boncore and his brother bought a house trailer to use as a hunting lodge. Well as soon as they got it to the woods on some land they bought. The land had to be cleared piers dug, the blocked and set up. Well guess who had a bad back and had to go right home to bed? Later that evening he turned up at a local disco. Hey Prof I thought you had a bac back?? A look of horror came upon the evil Prof Boncore's face. I got him now I thought. Then his eyes lite up, oh hi, Frank, its a miracle, you won't beleive this but I

could hardly walk then this beautiful girl grabs me and starts to dance when all of a sudden my back is o.k. Your right Prof I don't believe you. But he protested, I tell you its a mircale There's the Prof dancing and I must admit he's as graceful as a baby elephant doing a Watosi. But then too I also must admit that Prof Boncore isn't hreally half bad. But, he's not half good either, so thats the way it is. Well like I said dig out those old time radio Christmas shows and enjoy an old fashion Christmas. I hope all our friends from the Old Time Radio Club had a very Merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year. And to all the guys in the cellars of Ed's Place, a special Merry Crhstmas and Happy New Year.

See you guys next year.

FRANCIE EDWARD BORK

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#### FAVORITE OTR SHOWS

After the last few articles, perhaps it is time for me to touch on a subject where everybody has an opinion, none of which agree. Yet all can be right! We all love Old Time Radio shows, or we wouldn't be involved in listening to, trading for, reading about or writing about them. Yet we all differ in our favorite shows. In fact, many people have been drawn into OTR because of their love of a certain show, either as a memory from childhood, or an accidental introduction later in life.

As I have stated before, I grew up with radio. I was born in 1924, so I really did grow up with radio. I remember getting up at three in the morning to listen to the coronation of the King of England. then dragging myself to school dead tired. I remember my brother and I sneaking out of bed and going down the hallway to get closer to the living room, so we could listen past our bedtime. Yet, with all these memories, I did not have a favorite show when I first started collecting OTR in the early 60's I remembered many shows that we listened to, but my father (Like most homes in those days!) made the decisions on what to listen to in the evenings, so we listened to what he liked. NO use asking for what we liked!

For example: I missed Orson Welles' WAR OF THE WORLDS because we were out to a Halloween party, and besides my father listened to another program at that time. I almost missed the Joe Louis--Max

Schmeling fight, because we were preparing for a long fight (fixing snacks, etc. just like TV today) and just made it back to the radio when Louis knocked him down.

Because of my earlier memories, my first OTR shows I collected were almost all comedies, and I still prefer them today. I have at least a few copies of all the popular comedies. As most of you know, some shows have held up well during the passing of the years. Here are my favorites, and my reasons for selecting them.

VIC AND SADE. Some people claim this is the best radio show ever. I won't go that far, but I pick it as my top favorite for several reasons. It is funny, it gives a nostalgic look at middle America in the 30's (And believe me, it is an accurate look!) and it can be listened to over and over without becoming boring. If you don't believe me, listen to the episode called IKE KNEESNUFFER'S PHOTOS and tell me if Sade really did catch on to Vic's attempt to trick her, or did she really know the people in the pictures. I haven't really figured it out yet. Outstanding writing and outstanding characterization! That is what makes a program great.

My number two favorite is really a tie. It's a toss-up between THE JACK BENNY SHOW AND FIBBER MCGEE AND MOLLY. Both had outstanding writing and established characters. Both meet the test of time. They are still as funny today as years ago.

I could list other comedy shows as favorites, but I'm restricting myself to these three. However, there are some shows with big name stars which do hot hold up today. BOB HOPE was too topical, and his one-liners don't sound funny today. RED SKELTON & EDDIE CANTOR have the same problem. The humor is too dated, and was based on jokes, not character. It doesn't carry over too well.

In the area of drama I have to pick THE MERCURY THEATRE ON THE AIR as number 1, even though it was only around a short time. The play, the adaptation for radio, the acting were all superb. And with Orson Welles to tie it together, how could it go wrong?

Although LUX PRESENTS HOLLY WOOD may not have had the most outstanding dramas on the air, it was one of my favorites and rates as number two. Some of the so-called "best shows on the air" as selected by the critics, like plays by Norman Corwin were never my favorites

As a radio listener I thought them prententious and boring, and as an OTR collector I still feel the same.

As for mysteries, I like the ones best that mirror my reading habits. HERCULE POIROT, ELLERY QUEEN, NERO WOLF, and that show that thowers above all, SHERLOCK HOLMES. SHERLOCK HOLMES had been played on the radio by many different actors ( many of them outstanding) but Basil Rathbone is still considered the ultimate SHERLOCK. This show, along with VIC AND SADE , are the only radio shows I have actually endeavored to obtain every show available. I applauded the recent release of / the NEW ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES even though it meant I had to purchase my copies from a store instead of obtaining them through trades!

I am not attempting to pick my favorite westerns, or adventure shows, or even variety shows. None of these are among my favorites, and my number 1 western, for example, would rank beneath the top twenty on my list of favorite shows. I know many people who swear GUNSMOKE IS the best show ever made. It may be, but I never was a great fan of western books, movies or radio. Other people swear by THE SHADOW. I never listened to it as a child and still don't care for it today.

As my amy have guessed by now, my two top favorite shows are VIC AND SADE and SHERLOCK HOLMES. I am sure all of you have your favorites too. But if you have never listened to these two shows, at least give them a try. You may be surprised.

JACK PALMER

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THE DEALER'S CORNER

BY

FRANCK C. BONCORE

Got some great news for reel to reel fans:

Ron Barnett of Audio Tapes Inc, Box 9584, Alexandria Va, 22304, phone # (703) 370-5555 (Mon-Sat 9am to 6pm) eastern time had some deals only if mention the I.P.

Scotch 176 ((NEW) Professional tape \$3.19 each (min 5) + shipping in new scotch box

Amplex 641 1800ft (unboxed) (used)
10 \$23.50 + shipping
25 \$48.95 "
50 \$87.50 "

Amplex used 671 2400ft
10 \$27.50 + shipping
25 \$59.50 + shipping

A SPEICAL IF YOU MENTION THE I.P.
25 reels mostly amplex (60%) used
1800 tape in new boxes for \$39.00
postpaid.

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BURLINGTON AUDIO VIDEO TAPE,

106 Mott St., Oceanside N.Y.11572
phone 1-800-3191 or fax (516)
678-8959 has:

Government surplus tape as is
Amplex 641 1800 ft \$37 per
carton (38-40 pcs) + shipping

Amplex 671 2400 ft \$55.51 per
carton (55-60 pcs) + shipping
7" white boxes 30# each split
carton, 24# each 1 carton, 22#
each 2 or more cartons (all prices
+ shipping.)

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PLAY IT AGAIN SAM, 12611 Madison
Ave, Lakewood, Ohio, 44107
phone # (216) 228-7330 has reels
decks for sale (reconditioned)
phone for details.

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KEN MILLS OF NOSTALGIA RECORDINGS

907 Maple Ave, Ridgfield ,NJ
07657
phone (201) 945-3757 has a new
catalog available for \$5.00

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COWBOY DON ASTON of AMPRO Box 1392

Lake Elsinore Ca., 92531
phone (714) 244-5242 had the
following new releases on Video

THE GREEN HORNET \$29.95 + \$2 ship
FLASH GORDON CONQUERS THE UNIVERSE
\$29.95 + \$2 shipping
RIDERS OF DEATH VALLEY \$29.95
+ \$2 shipping
ADVENTURES OF REX AND RINTY
(RIN TIN TIN) \$29.95 + \$2 shipp

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Did you know that Andy Blat of
Vintage Broadcasts, 42 Bowling
Green, Staten Island, 10314 also
sells reels??

Reel # 1822 disc jockey reel has
bradcast from the following:

WKMH DETROIT (1956) 45 min  
 WIBG PHILADELPHIA 1957 45 min  
 WIL ST LOUIS (1958) 45 min  
 KGFJ LOS ANGELES (1959) 45 min'  
 WKBW BUFFALO (1960) 45 min  
 WMEX BOSTOM (1961) 45 min  
 KLIF DALLAS (1962) 45 min

\$9.00 + \$2.00 shipping

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# THE RADIO

The year was 1943 and this genial young actor then known as Marvin Mueller was appearing in the CBS radio serial The Romance of Helen Trent as Gil Whitney "a prominent Los Angeles lawyer who is now a confidential Government agent. Long ago he fell in love with Helen Trent, but she always refused to marry him, fearing she did not love him enough, until at last he became engaged to Martha Carvell, News of Helen's recent illness however seems to have made him realize that she has a place in his heart no other woman can fill." Mueller went on to pursue a career as a movie heavy in such films as Dead Reckoning and Deadline at Dawn, as well as becoming billionaire John Beresford Tipton's right-hand man in the long-running TV series The Millionaire. He now is known, of course, as Marvin Miller.

## WINTHROP



# The Radio

## THE GREAT CBS RAID

When CBS recently dropped the Red Skelton show and NEC promptly snapped him up for the 1970-71 season, it brought back memories of a startling three-month period in 1949 during which William S. Paley, president of the Columbia Broadcasting System, lured away some of radio's top stars from NBC and ABC. This was back in the days when television was in its adolescence and network radio was still an institution in North America.

It actually started in September, 1948, when Paley showed Freeman Gosden and Charles Correll how they could sell their creation, Amos and Andy, to CBS for \$2,000,000 and keep most of it as capital gains. That way, they could get away with paying only 25 percent of the \$2,000,000 in taxes whereas if it were counted as personal income, the tax rate would be 80 percent.

When the U.S. Treasury approved the Amos and Andy deal as a capital gains transaction, Paley next set

his sights on Jack Benny, then the kingpin of NBC's Sunday night radio line-up. Benny's show was heard at 7 p.m. and, because of its popularity, NBC was assured that most of his 21 million listeners would stay tuned to the shows that followed including Phil Harris and Alice Faye, Charlie McCarthy and Fred Allen.

Paley offered \$2,000,000 for the rights to the format and characters of the Benny show, as well as all of Benny's subsidiary radio and movie interests. Among

the assets Paley purchased was a Benny movie called *The Lucky Stiff* which was a highly forgettable bomb.

Next, Paley went after Bing Crosby, who was then being heard on the ABC radio network. He obtained Crosby for CBS by paying a million dollars as an investment in Crosby-owned corporations. Paley even waived the CBS rule against recorded programs to allow Crosby to transcribe his show.

NBC tried to plug the gap left by Benny by moving Red Skelton to that time slot, but Skelton's sponsor didn't like the idea of his star trying to compete against Benny who would be in the same time slot for CBS, and said he preferred Friday night. Shortly after that, the sponsor decided to move Skelton to CBS.

Next in line for "Paley's Comet" as *Variety* termed it was the Charlie McCarthy show and shortly after that Ozzie Nelson and Harriet Hilliard moved their show from NBC to CBS. ■

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# THE AMBLER GAZETTE

Dedicated since 1882 to the service of Ambler Borough, Horsham, Lower Gwynedd, Plymouth, Springfield, Upper Dublin, Whitmarsh and Whitpain

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AMBLER, PA., OCTOBER 16, 1991

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## Gray Matter

By Herm Thoencke

History tells us that radio broadcasting began in 1920 at WWJ in Detroit although the airing of the Harding-Cox election returns by KDKA from Pittsburgh is looked upon as the first big event in broadcasting history.

Radio transmission started long before that with the discoveries of Heinrich Hertz, Sir Oliver Lodge and Guglielmo Marconi. Names like Fessenden, Fleming (inventor of the two-element vacuum tube), Lee DeForest and Langmuir punctuate radio history.

Amateurs early got into the act. A young friend of mine, who much later became best man at my wedding, operated 3AVE. I spent many an hour glued to his Brandes phones

## Listening to the Golden Age of radio

and listening to the spark coil transmitter. I built my first radio receivers—who didn't?—consisting of coils, slides, cat whiskers and Western Electric phones. I remember listening to the score of a Rose Bowl game between Penn and California. That was the year I got my degree.

—1924. Penn had completed its schedule undeterred but dropped the bowl game. 15—0.

I remember distinctly hearing WOD (Wanamaker's), WLLT (Litt Brothers) and the first survivor of that period—Wif (Gimbel's)—on one of my homemade sets, one of which incorporated a try pill bottle.

Building radio sets was the rage and fun, but construction soon became big business.

While in college I had a part time job with the Music Master Corp., then famous for its novel goose-

neck horn. They were considering entering into the radio receiver business and were eager to determine which sets then on the market came in clearest through city interference.

Each week they sent me home with a different receiver to test with a different receiver to test reception. Alwater Kent, Ware, Fred Eiseeman and Zenith were among the many tested. Zenith was the winner. I got my job through old friend Emil who was a radio technician at Music Master. Emil had a hand in the console Music Master finally built of magnificent mahogany with gold-plated hardware. I bought one.

Friend Emil's family moved from North Philadelphia to Montgomeryville. He would pick me up with his Stearns-Knight Fridays on the way home from work, and I

would spend late evenings and early mornings determined to bring in KFI and KHJ (California) and the barn dance from WSB (Alabama) on Emil's six-tube Armstrong circuit superhet. It was called DX-ing and it was thrilling even in the cold damp of a country early morning.

Early radio broadcasting was dotted with such memorable names as Billy Jones and Ernie Hare, Rosy and his group, Gram MacNamer and Ted Hiding. The year Pat and I married (1929) we huddled around our immense floor-standing Majestic to listen to Amos 'n' Andy. The Goldbergs, Rudy Vallee and the legendary One Man's Family, produced by Carlton E. Morse.

I like to close my eyes and recall programs like The Fred Allen Show, Groucho's You Bet Your Life,

Burns and Allen, Fred Waring, Major Bowers' Amateur Hour, Fibber McGee and Molly, The Hit Parade, The March of Time, Duffy's Tavern, The Lone Ranger, Inner Sanctum, Sisters of the Skillet and Information Please—just to name a few. I haven't room today to name the scores of superb bands. Ah, those were the days of radio.

Radio today is informative; we have sports, weather, traffic reports, lottery results and the like but nothing to compare with Old Radio. Television robbed radio of drama, mystery, suspense, comedy, tragedy and dropped it to second place.

Radio had, and still has, one great advantage over TV; you can listen to it as you go about your house-work or hobby; you are not immobilized by a tube.



FROM THE  
CASSETTE  
LIBRARY

1566	A	DRAMA	BBC PLAYS; THE WIND
1566	B	DRAMA	(NO OPENING)
1567	A	DRAMA	BBC PLAYS; (90 MIN) FALLEN
1567	B	DRAMA	BBC PLAYS; CREEPS BY NIGHT; THE FLY
1568	A	COMEDY	THE GOON SHOW; CHINA STORY
1568	B	COMEDY	THE GOON SHOW; THE MACREEKIE RISING OF '74 W/PETER BELL
RS			
1569	A	HORROR	INNER SANCTUM; (60 MIN) DEATH BY SCRIPTURE
1569	B	HORROR	END OF "DEATH BY SCRIPTURE"
1570	A	COMEDY	LIFE OF RILEY; RILEY'S NEW CHAIR
1570	B	COMEDY	LIFE OF RILEY; CHILD ABUSE
1571	A	COMEDY	THE ALDRICH FAMILY
1571	B	COMEDY	THE GREAT GILDERSLEAVE; EVENING AT OPERA W/H. PEARY
1572	A	COMEDY	LIFE OF RILEY
1572	B	COMEDY	LIFE OF RILEY
1573	A	COMEDY	ABBOTT AND COSTELLO; THEIR BEST COMEDY ROUTINES
1573	B	ADVENTURE	ESCAPE; LEINENGEN VS THE ANTS ALSO ON C1516 & C610
1574	A	DRAMA	BBC PLAYS; THE DARK IS LIGHTING UP
1574	B	DRAMA	BBC PLAYS; CONCLUSION
1575	A	DRAMA	BBC PLAYS; THE SHOUT W/DAVID BUCHET
1575	B	DRAMA	BBC PLAYS; CONCLUSION
1576	A	DRAMA	BBC PLAYS; THE EARLY DAYS
1576	B	DRAMA	BBC PLAYS; CONCLUSION
1577	A	DRAMA	BBC PLAYS; CAIPHUS THE PRIEST
1577	B	DRAMA	BBC PLAYS; CONCLUSION
1578	A	DRAMA	BBC PLAYS; REDEVELOPMENT
1578	B	DRAMA	BBC PLAYS; CONCLUSION
1579	A	DRAMA	BBC PLAYS (90 MIN); THE BAY OF NICE (FINISHED ON SIDE
1579	B	DRAMA	SHADOW; THEY KILL WITH GOLDEN HATCHETS
1580	A	DRAMA	BBC PLAYS (90 MIN); SAY SOMETHING HAPPENED
1580	A	DRAMA	THEATRE ROYALE; OUTCASTS OF POKER FLATS (FINISH ON SID
B)			
1580	B	DRAMA	STRANGE DR. WEIRD; DEATH IN THE EVERGLADES
1581	A	MYSTERY	SHADOW; MURDER IN THE DEATH HOUSE
1581	A	MYSTERY	UNEXPECTED; CARGO UNKNOWN
1581	B	MYSTERY	SHADOW; REFLECTION OF DEATH
1581	B	SF/FANT	SCI-FI SHOW; ROCKETSHIP
1582	A	DRAMA	BBC PLAYS; THE ROCKING CHAIR
1582	B	MYSTERY	AVENGER; MURDER HITS THE JACK
1583	A	MYSTERY	CHARLIE CHAN; SERIAL
1583	B	DRAMA	THEATRE ROYALE; DR JEKYLL AND MR HYDE
1584	A	DRAMA	BBC THEATER (90 MIN); BLIND MAN'S HOOD
1584	A	DRAMA	BBC THEATER; AN UNRECORDED INSTANCE
1584	B	DRAMA	CABIN B-13; THE BRIDE VANISHES
1585	A	DRAMA	BBC PLAYS; NIGHT OF THE NEW MOON
1585	B	DRAMA	ON STAGE; A FIFTH OF TEARS
1586	A	DRAMA	BBC PLAYS; ROSENCRANTZ AND GUILDENSTEIN ARE DEAD
1586	B	DRAMA	BBC PLAYS; (FOUR PART PLAY) PT1 AND PT2
1587	A	DRAMA	BBC PLAYS; CONCLUSION OF "ROSENCRANTZ AND GUILDENSTERN.
1587	B	DRAMA	BBC PLAYS; PT3 AND PT 4
1588	A	MYSTERY	SHADOW; GHOST OF CROWNSHIELD CASTLE
1588	A	DRAMA	ACADAMY AWARD THEATRE; WATCH ON THE RHINE
1588	B	MYSTERY	FAT MAN; WINDOW TO MURDER
1589	A	DRAMA	BBC PLAYS (90 MIN); WIND OF HEAVEN
1589	B	DRAMA	BBC PLAYS; CONCLUSION OF "WIND .....

1590	A	COMEDY	MILTON BERLE SHOW; A SALUTE TO RADIO
1590	B	DRAMA	SUSPENSE; SORRY WRONG NUMBER W/AGNES MOOREHEAD
1591	A	SF/FANT	DIMENSION "X"; MARS IS HEAVEN
1591	B	SF/FANT	X MINUS ONE; TUNNEL UNDER THE WORLD
1592	A	COMEDY	OUR MISS BROOKS; RARE BLACK ORCHID
1592	B	COMEDY	OUR MISS BROOKS; SKI'S IN THE CLASSROOM
1593	A	COMEDY	OUR MISS BROOKS; POETRY MIXUP
1593	B	COMEDY	OUR MISS BROOKS; CONNIE THE WORKHORSE
1594	A	MYSTERY	SAM SPADE W/H. DUFF; RUSHLIGHT DIAMOND CAPER
1594	B	MYSTERY	SAM SPADE W/H. DUFF; WHEEL OF LIFE CAPER
1595	A	MYSTERY	SAM SPADE W/H. DUFF; MISSING NEWSHAWK CAPER
1595	B	MYSTERY	SAM SPADE W/H. DUFF; MAD SCIENTIST CAPER
1596	A	MYSTERY	SAM SPADE W/H. DUFF; HOT HUNDRED CAPER
1596	B	MYSTERY	SAM SPADE W/H. DUFF; DICK FOLEY CAPER
1597	A	MYSTERY	SAM SPADE W/H. DUFF; FARMER'S DAUGHTER CAPER
1597	B	MYSTERY	SAM SPADE W/H. DUFF; RED ANAPOLA CAPER
1598	A	MYSTERY	SAM SPADE W/ H. DUFF; DEATHBED CAPER
1598	B	MYSTERY	SAM SPADE W/H. DUFF; BAILBOND CAPER
1599	A	SF/FANT	X MINUS ONE; HONEYMOON IN HELL
1599	B	SF/FANT	X MINUS ONE; THE MOON IS GREEN
1600	A	DRAMA	MERCURY THEATRE W/D. WELLS; TREASURE ISLAND
1600	B	DRAMA	MERCURY THEATRE; CONCLUSION OF "TREASURE...
1601	A	DRAMA	BBC PLAYS (90 MIN); THE ULTIMATE INVENTION
1601	B	DRAMA	BBC PLAYS; CONCLUSION
1602	A	DRAMA	BBC PLAYS (90MIN); SECRETS OF THE PRISON HOUSE
1602	B	DRAMA	BBC PLAYS; SHARK IN THE WATER
1603	A	DRAMA	BBC PLAYS; EVENTS AT GIMELENE
1603	B	DRAMA	BBC PLAYS; CONCLUSION
1604	A	DRAMA	BBC PLAYS; SIMPLE SIMON GOES TO WAR
1604	B	DRAMA	BBC PLAYS; CONCLUSION
1605	A	DRAMA	BBC PLAYS (90 MIN); THE SECRET SHARER
1605	B	DRAMA	SCREEN DIR. PLAYHOUSE; RED DUST

## Gene Austin Dies at 71; Wrote Many Popular Songs

From News Wire Services

PALM SPRINGS, Calif., Jan. 25 — Gene Austin, 71, one of the most popular recording stars in history, died Monday.

Austin, who wrote How Come You Do Me Like You Do, Do, Do, When My Sugar Walks Down the Street and That Old Gang of Mine, once estimated that he sold 86 million records.

His biggest year was in 1929 when he sang three hits written by others, Ramona, Girl of My Dreams I Love You and Carolina Moon.

In 1927 he sold more than seven million recordings of My Blue Heaven.

He appeared before King George V of Britain and Queen Mary at a command performance in 1928. Three years later, at the height of his success, he decided to retire.

He moved on to a luxury yacht in Hollywood, Fla., which he appropriately christened Blue Heaven.

In the 1950s he was reported missing at sea aboard his yacht. Friends and fans conducted memorial services for him, only to learn several days later that he was alive.

In the 1980s he staged a comeback, singing in night clubs, writing more songs and making some records.



GENE AUSTIN

He was born in Texas, and lived in Las Vegas, Nev., much of his life. He ran unsuccessfully for the Democratic gubernatorial nomination in Nevada in 1962.

He was a patient in Nov. 13, General Hospital from Nov. 13, to Dec. 4, 1971, for chemotherapy. At the time he told friends:

"Say I have cancer. I know it."



**Tiger**

**"Time Killer"**

Stunning Minked Kitten, with U.S. Shipment, from \$14.95 to \$19.95. Includes every parcel of food, pet or present, a guarantee of purebred. My animals are seen in a New York documentary in December 1980. We don't know whether or not he'll be all his.

**MONDAY-SUNDAY**

**11:30 PM**

**93 WBN**

# Gene Austin, Our First Crooner, Looks for Another 'Blue Heaven'

By AUSTIN PAGE

At 71, Gene Austin says he's not planning a comeback — he's "just picking up from where I left off."

"Comeback's not a term used in music," he said Wednesday. "That's a fighting term. I'm not getting up off the floor."

Gene Austin, however, is a fighter.

A singer who sold more than 36 million records from 1924 to 1932 and wrote such memorable songs as "How Can You Do Me Like You Do Do, Do" and "Wedding Bells Are Breaking Up that Old Gang of Mine," he's just fought a bout with lung cancer.

He came from Hollywood to Buffalo General Hospital Nov. 13 for chemotherapy and doctors plan to discharge him Saturday.

"I came here from California on a stretcher," Mr. Austin said, "and I'm going out on my own."

Mr. Austin said he's sure he'll recover and always has been sure about whatever he's done.

"I was very fortunate," he reminisced, "in knowing what I wanted to do all my life."

GENE AUSTIN, dressed in a plush green robe, sat in a chair near his bed. Texas-born, he talked with a soft drawl, emphasizing his statements with gestures of his hands and blue eyes.

Starting in vaudeville just before 1920, he turned to song writing and then to singing in 1923.

He added: "I had it all set what I was going to do . . . but I still had to struggle."

He had most of the big records in the '20s — "Being a Song Writer, I could pick the hits. I was the first crooner and made 36 million phonograph records before the other boys caught on to me."

Mr. Austin said it was to his advantage that "everybody sang like Al Jolson. I didn't."

His biggest recording, "My Blue Heaven," sold about 8 million copies — "over a million in Japan," he pointed out.

ALTHOUGH HE couldn't — and still can't — read music, he introduced recordings of such popular songs as Bye Bye Blackbird, Carolina Moon, Yes Sir, That's My Baby, Ramma, Girl of My Dreams.

His own songs include The Lonesome Road, When My Sugar Walks Down the Street and Please Come Back to Me.

Song writing filled his days before he made it as a singer, Mr. Austin added.

For example, he said, "How Come You Do Me Like You Do" was written one night after an incident in an elevator in a hotel where he lived along with Jack Benny, Cary Grant and George Burns. ("There wasn't four hucks between all of us.")

As a gimmick to awaken the drowsy elevator operator, he said, he used to throw pistachio nuts on the floor. That night



ENDING HOSPITAL STAY — Gene Austin, famous singer and songwriter, and his wife, Gigi, look over autographed copy of book by one of his favorites, Pat Boone. Mr. Austin is due to leave Buffalo General Hospital Saturday.

he added, the operator turned to him and asked: "How come you do me like you do?"

ASKED ABOUT his favorite singers, he said: "I like anybody who has contributed anything to music," adding, that he knows of no one "who has contributed anything in the past 15 years."

The last contribution, Mr. Austin said, was made by Elvis Presley who "sang with a drive and intensity like a drum. He could shake you up."

As for today's singers, Mr. Austin said he "doesn't like screamers." He prefers, he

said, Glen Campbell, Leslie Uggams, Eddy Arnold, Pat Boone and the Fifth Dimension.

Mr. Austin's even done some song writing while here with his attractive wife, Gigi.

His future plans he said, include some books and a score for his friend Max West for a new version of "Diamond Lil."

"I have a backlog of 30 years of things I'd like to do," he said.

He's already written some new songs.

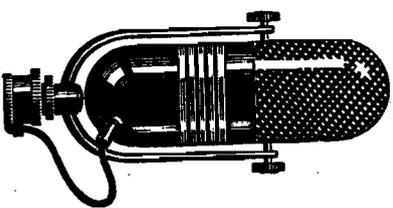
"Will they be hits? "Yep." "I don't fool around with unless it will be a hit,"

explained. "I have one will be a hit overnight member it. I'm all in and Down."

Buffalo News

Thursday, December 2, 1971

Old Time Radio Club  
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**FIRST CLASS MAIL**